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SOURCE Pochvovedeniye, No 12, 1949.NEW SOIL MAP OF KAZAKHSTAN

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The appearance of a new soil map of Kazakhstan, Pochvennaya Karta Karakhskey SSR (Soil Map of Kazakh SSR), compiled by Ye. V. Lobovoy, edited by Academician L. I. Prasolov and I. P. Gerasimov, associate member of Academy of Sciences USSR, 1946, scale 1:2,500,000, is a great event in the history of soil science.

The first soil map of Kazakh SSR was compiled by the local collective of soil scientists (L. I. Iozefovich, S. P. Matusevich, A. V. Mukhlya, I. A. Bespoludinnov, and others). It has been out of print for a long time and has become quite outdated.

Although the new map has a smaller scale, it is in no way less detailed than the former map and in addition has a number of new features. It generalizes all the material which has been collected in soil studies made in the past and particularly the new information gained since the preparation of the former map (1932-1946). During these years soil studies attained an especially wide scope.

The legend of the map has been prepared in the light of the latest views concerning the classification of soils in the USSR and in Kazakh SSR in particular. It is quite simple (considering the diversity and complexity of the soil cover) and intelligible.

However, we do not approve of one division of the legend. This division is that entitled "soil complexes." The concept "thermic" complexes cannot be accepted as definitely proved and is not generally accepted in Soviet soil science circles. Furthermore, the whole system of complex representation is extremely ponderous (there are 29 symbols) and makes reading of the map more difficult. It seems that not more than ten of all these symbols, which are often very closely related in content (for example, S_{nK}^{21} and S_{nK}^{21K1} , L_{nK}^{11} and L_{nK}^{11K} , etc.), merit designation as

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separate complex symbols. All the others could either be combined or shown by the symbol (color) of the predominating soil with the symbols of the associated soils superimposed on it just as the author of the map has done for "soil combinations." It is impossible to indicate qualitative differences between soil "complexes" and "combinations" on lowlands; but quantitative differences can be shown by the heaviness of the superimposed symbols, their multiplication, etc.

The term "soil combinations" should be reserved for mountainous areas where shading is utilized to represent slopes and other features of mountainous relief.

Inconsistency in representing river valley soils is noted: sometimes they are shown as "river bottom soils," sometimes as "meadow soils," then again as "lowland complexes," and sometimes they are not identified at all, e.g., along the lower reaches of the Syr-Dar'ya and Emba rivers. Apparently the soils of areas where through soil studies have not yet been made are blanketed under the symbol "river valley soils," e.g., the lower reaches of the Chu River.

It is possible to find some factual inaccuracies and errors in the representation of the soil cover of individual parts of the territory. This is only natural and inevitable since during the 5 years which have elapsed from the time that the map was begun, 1944, until the time that it was printed, 1949, a considerable amount of new material has been gathered. The inaccuracies will undoubtedly be eliminated in the next edition, but they in no essential way detract from the general value of the map which on the whole correctly portrays the soils of Kazakh SSR.

All remarks which have been made do not depreciate the general high value of Ye. V. Lobovoy's work, which has great theoretical and practical significance. Its wide utilization is assured.

In conclusion, one cannot fail to notice the beautiful technical layout of the map. The choice of colors and symbols must be acknowledged as being very fortunate. The writer is able to say with great personal satisfaction that in the representation of all the main soil types and subtypes as well as in the mechanical composition of the map, the author of the map has used the same colors and symbols which this writer at one time recommended (see Pochvovedeniye /Soil Science/, No 1, 1931 and No 5, 1933). The only exception was the color chosen to represent gray brown soils. This color clashes with the rest of the color scheme.

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